

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 11, 17, 18, 26 and 29 have been amended. Claims 23-25 and 29-30 have been canceled. Claims 1-4, 11, 13-18 and 20-22, and 26-28 are pending.

Claims 1-3, 18 and 20-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tanaka et al. Claims 1, 18, 26 and 29 have been amended to define the invention more clearly and thus obviate the rejection. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the data storage device stores global manufacturing standardization data and a plurality of electronic manufacturing data sets with each of the plurality of electronic manufacturing data sets corresponding to a local manufacturing process. The difference editor, executable on the processor, displays differences between the at least one of the electronic manufacturing data sets and the global manufacturing standardization data.

Thus, with the invention, manufacturing operations with multiple locations now have the ability to transfer information related to the manufacture of a single product among different assembly lines and different assembly sites. Global manufacturing data is thus available to all sites and assembly lines. For example, in a manufacturing process for a specific printed circuit board or panel, specific components, such as capacitors, are provided on the assembly line according to a central or global specification. The global manufacturing standardization data can detail the components, and permitted tolerances, to be used for the specific product being manufactured. As noted in the specification, “global data” is any data used for more than one assembly line.

Tankaka et al. does not teach or suggest global manufacturing standardization data for comparing electronic manufacturing data sets corresponding to a local manufacturing process as claimed. All data compared in Tankaka et al. is local. Therefore, the rejection of claim 1 and the claims that depend there-from should be withdrawn. With regard to claim 18, this claim has been amended to define, in addition to the first assembly line, a second assembly line remote from the first assembly line and having a second controller, with the second controller containing a second set

of manufacturing data related to a product manufactured by the second assembly line. The products of the first and second assembly lines are similar products. In addition, a central server provides a global standardization specification for the products to the first controller and to the second controller. The display displays differences between a set of manufacturing data and the global standardization specification.

Tanaka et al. simply do not teach or suggest a second assembly line remote from a first assembly line or a global standardization specification for similar products produced at different assembly lines. Therefore, the rejection of claim 18 and the claims that depend there-from should be withdrawn.

Claim 26, as amended, recites displaying the second set of electronics manufacturing data on another section of the display concurrently with the displayed first set of electronics manufacturing data to clarify how data is displayed. Furthermore, claim 26 recites that the second set of electronics manufacturing data include another list of component desired to be manufactured on the assembly line.

Tanaka et al. do not teach or suggest that second set of electronics manufacturing data include another list of component desired to be manufactured on the assembly line. Therefore, the rejection of claim 26 and the claims that depend there-from should be withdrawn.

Claim 4 11, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Miller et al. With regard to claim 4, this claim depends from claim 1 as amended. It is submitted that Miller fails to teach or suggest global and local data as defined in claim 1.

With regard to claim 11, the claim has been amended to change “non-local” to “global” to be consistent with the language used in the specification. In addition, the preamble of claim 11 has been amended to limit structure by reciting a method for managing of electronics manufacturing data, in which the data comprises global data used for a plurality of assembly lines and local data used at one of the plurality of assembly lines. As acknowledged in §2111.02 of the MPEP, “[a]ny terminology in the preamble that limits the structure of the claimed invention must be treated as a claim limitation.” MPEP, Rev. 1, Feb. 2003, p. 2100-49 (*citing Corning Glass Works v. Sumitomo Elec. U.S.A., Inc.*, 868 F.2d 1251, 1257, 9 USPQ2d 1962, 1966 (Fed. Cir.

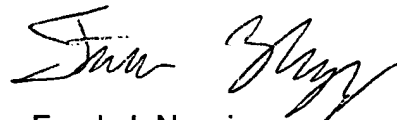
1989); *Pac-Tec Inc. v. Amerace Corp.*, 903 F.2d 796, 801, 14 USPQ2d 1871, 1876 (Fed. Cir. 1990); *In re Stencel*, 828 F.2d 751, 4 USPQ2d 1071 (Fed. Cir. 1987)).

Miller et al. do not teach or suggest the claimed global and local data. In addition, Miller et al. does not teach that the first and second sets of persons are not identical. There is simply no identification of persons who can modify data in Miller et al., particularly at column 6, lines 10-23, which the Examiner cites in support of the rejection. Therefore, the rejection of claim 11 and the claims that depend there-from should be withdrawn.

Claims 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al. in view of Cullen et al. These claims depend from claim 11 and are considered to be allowable for the reasons advanced above, and for the additional reason that the added subject matter thereof is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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